

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox
Churches, Old Church
Chignik Lake
Alaska

HABS No. AK-68A

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES, OLD CHURCH

HABS No. AK-68-A

Location: Chignik Lake, Alaska Peninsula, Alaska.

Significance: The old church at Chignik Lake is an extremely modest example of an Alaskan Russian Orthodox church.

Description: The main block of the church measures approximately 14' x 46' and is covered by a gable roof, with a shed-roofed 13' x 5' vestibule on the west end. The wood frame is covered by a mix of materials, including horizontal tongue-and-groove boards, oilcloth, wide planks, and corrugated metal. The wide-eaved gable roof is covered with corrugated metal.

On the interior, the frame of the iconostas, showing three segmental-arched openings, separates the nave and sanctuary. The icons have been removed. There is a square recess in the ceiling in front of the iconostas, in which hangs a chandelier of beading and metal.

History: The village was established in the 1950s, and the church was probably built at that time. The church shows evidence of several additions. The original building was probably 14' x 20'. The nave was first extended to the west about 16', then an additional 7'.

Historian: Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, 1990.